

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reexamination and reconsideration of this Application, withdrawal of the rejection, and formal notification of the allowability of all claims as now presented are earnestly solicited in light of the attached evidence and remarks that follow. Claims 3, 4, 8, 9, 12-14, 20-22, 24-27, and 33-45 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 10, 11, 15, 16, 18, 19, and 32 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. New claims 38-45 are presented herein. Support for the new claims may be found throughout the specification. For example, support may be found on page 16 (lines 1-2), the paragraph bridging pages 23-24, page 24 (lines 14-19), page 25 (lines 9-24), and page 21 (lines 5-7). It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is introduced by these amendments.

Claim 32 was objected to as being a duplicate of claim 27. Applicants have cancelled claim 32. As a result, this objection is now moot. However, it is noted that claim 32 did differ from the subject matter of claim 27. Specifically, the original version of claim 27 specified that the adsorbent is in granular form. Claim 32 did not include this limitation.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(f) as allegedly not invented by the Applicants. Further, claims 3, 4, 8-14, 18-22, and 24-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over copending Application No. 10/600,712 (US 2004/0261807) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,174,720 to Hall and U.S. Patent No. 7,115,085 to Deal. Claim 1 is also provisionally rejected under obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims of the above-noted copending application.

In order to expedite prosecution, Applicants have cancelled claim 1 and amended claims 3, 4, 8, 9, 12-14, 20-22, and 24-26 to depend from allowed claim 27. Accordingly, the above-noted rejections are rendered moot.

Applicants note with appreciation that the Examiner has indicated that claim 27 was allowed. Applicants have made a minor modification of claim 27 to remove the recitation that the adsorbent material is in granular form. Instead, that recitation is set forth in dependent claim 13. All other claims of record now depend from allowed claim 27. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for an allowance.

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Amdt. dated November 21, 2007
Reply to Office Action of August 21, 2007

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,

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